

# Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE)

Acting Director, National Cancer Institute

*John Niederhuber, M.D.*

Director, Office of Centers, Training and  
Resources

*Ernest T. Hawk, M.D., M.P.H*

Chief, Organ Systems Branch

*Jorge Gomez, M.D., Ph.D.*

*(<http://spores.nci.nih.gov>)*

# Recent Developments

- 2001-present
  - Guidelines (2001)
  - Program expansion (new organ sites)
  - P30/P50 Working Group Recommendations
  - Program stabilization (59 SPOREs/14 organ sites)
  - Assessment of the NCI SPORE pipeline
  - Translational Research Working Group
- SPORE Guidelines

# SPORE *Interim* Guidelines

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- Updated February 17, 2005
- [http://spores.nci.nih.gov/applicants/index\\_applicants.html](http://spores.nci.nih.gov/applicants/index_applicants.html)

# Policy Changes for 2004

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- NCI establishes a payline for all SPORes competing in a given year
- No funds available for new organ sites: all applicants (sites) are competing for the same pool of funds (coming from competing renewal applications)

# SPORE Programs

<-----RFA-----><-----PAR----->

	1992-93	1995-96	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Breast	4	6	6	9	9	9	9	10	8
Prostate	2	3	3	4	8	11	11	11	11
Lung	2	3	3	3	6	6	7	7	7
GI	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	5	4
Ovary	-	-	4	4	4	4	4	5	4
GU	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	2
Skin	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	3
Brain	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	4
H & N	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	4	4
Lymphoma	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	3
GYN							2	2	2
Leukemia							1	1	1
Myeloma							1	1	1
Pancreas*							3	3	3
Total Programs	9	14	18	22	31	44	54	61	57
Totals Budget (M)	20	30	39	48	68	112	123	135	133

\* Special Initiative in response to Pancreatic Cancer PRG

# Receipt Dates for SPORÉ Applications

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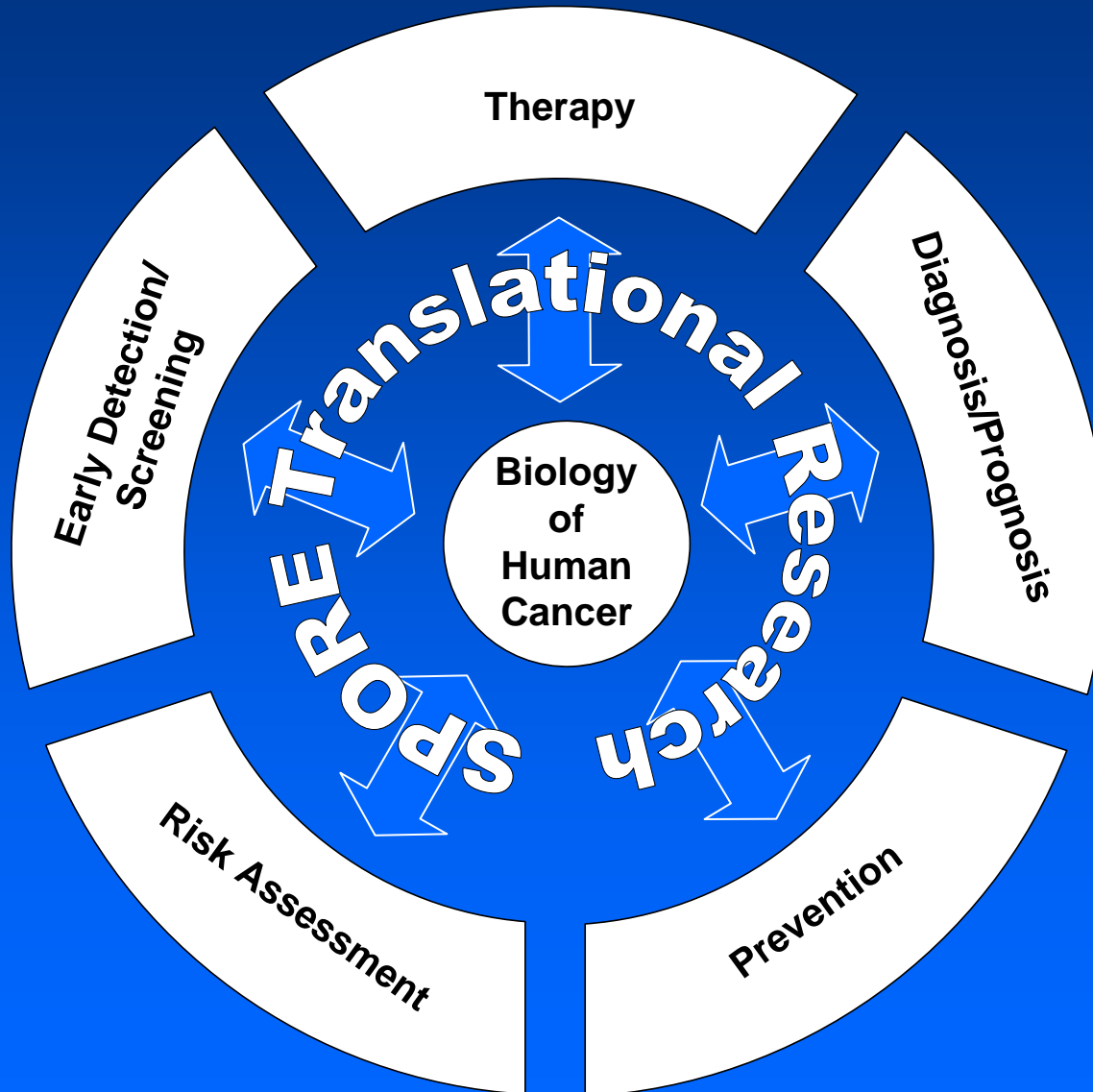
**In 2006, all organ sites will be accepted for the September 20<sup>rd</sup> receipt date.**

**In 2007, all organ sites will be accepted for the January 23<sup>nd</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and September 21<sup>st</sup> receipt dates .**

# Definition of Translational Research

**Translational research uses knowledge of human biology to develop and test the feasibility of cancer-relevant interventions in humans *AND/OR* determines the biological basis for observations made in individuals with cancer or in populations at risk for cancer**

# Bi-Directional Translational Research





# SPORE Eligibility and General Features

- Institution (domestic for profit and not for profit)
- Basic and Clinical Research Base
- Access to Patients
- Budget Cap  
*(reduced to \$2.5M)*
- Team Concept
- Inter-SPORE and NCI/NIH Network Collaborations *(greater emphasis)*
- Flexibility to Realign Resources
- Scientific Outreach
- Data/Resource Sharing  
*(NEW)*
- Standing Special Review Panel *(NEW)*

# SPOREs Budget Caps

- \$2.5 mil. Total Cost for Year 1
- \$1.5 mil. Direct Cost for Year 1
  - may be exceeded by indirect costs of subcontract(s)
- Up to 3% Cost of Living Increase for Year 2 and Subsequent Years
- Applications that Exceed these Caps (including cost of living allowance) will be Returned without Review

# SPORE Requirements

- Statement of Institutional Commitment
- Intellectual Property Management Plan *(NEW)*
- 4 Translational Research Projects  
(including "required")
- Shared Cores  
(specimen core required; adm, stats, & clinical are common)
- Developmental Research Program
- Career Development Program
- Commitment to attend and participate in SPORE Workshop and related NCI/NIH Meetings *(NEW)*
- Other Provisions for NCI designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers

# SPORE:

## Institutional Commitment

- Letters of Support from the Institution
- Incorporation of the SPORE within its Institutional Priorities
- Allocation of Discretionary Resources to the SPORE Program (e.g., funds for DRP, CDP)
- Facilitation and Promotion of Scientific Progress
- Integration of SPORE activities with NCI-designated Cancer Center

# Integration of SPORC with NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC)

- Principal Investigator: **Prominent within CCC**
- Lines of Authority
- Organizational Relationships
- Separate Institutional Commitment
- Augmentation of Existing CCC Resources: Cores
- Program Coordination with CCC Activities

# SPORE Principal Investigator Qualifications:

- Basic/Clinical Investigator Recognized Scientific Leader in the Field
  - Provides Leadership/Direction to the SPORE
  - Oversees and Conducts Planning Activities
  - Project Leader/Co-investigator/Core Director
- Appropriate Time Commitment (>25%)
- Understands Translational Research Objectives
- Identifies New Translational Research Opportunities

# Research Projects

- Test Novel Translational Ideas
- Balance between Basic and Applied Research
- Human Application within 5 yr of the Award
- Project Co-Leaders (2-3)
- Interdisciplinary Interactions
- Human Subjects/Animal Protections
- Consortium/Contractual Arrangements
- Data/Resource Sharing Plan
- Consultants/Commercial Agreements

# SPORE Cores

- Tissue Collection and Distribution (*Required*)
  - Parameters of collection and preservation; pertinent analytical considerations; essential pathological, clinical, family history information and linkage to databases, etc. (*more detail*)
- Other Specialized Cores
  - Administrative
  - Clinical
  - Biostatistical
  - Bioinformatics
  - Others
- Building on Pre-Existing Resources; Avoidance of Duplication
- Cross-talk between Cores and Projects
- *Data Management within Program Description (NEW)*



# Career Development Program

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- Encourages New and Established Investigators to Develop Careers in Translational Cancer Research
- Provides Salary and Other Support
- Promotes Mentoring of New Investigators
- Recruitment Plan for Selection of Candidates, including Women & Minorities
- *Plan for Solicitation, Review, and Award*
- └ (Promotion to Full Project on SPORC)

# Developmental Research Program

- Pilot Projects that Explore Innovative Ideas
  - Basic Research Projects with Translational Potential
  - Early Phase Clinical Studies; Pilot Epidemiology Projects
- Takes Advantage of New Research Opportunities
- Promotes Collaborations Among Scientists at the Same or Different Institutions
- Supports Research Proposed by *Independent* Investigators
- ┌ *Plan for Solicitation, Review, and Award*
- ┌ Promotion to Full Project on SPORC

# Annual SPORE Investigator's Workshop

- Statement of Commitment (*within Program Description*)
- Budget to Fund 10 Investigators to the Workshop (*Admin Core*)
- Promote Inter-SPORE Collaborations
- Share New Ideas, Materials, and Technologies
- Identify New Research Opportunities
- Establish Research Priorities that will Impact Upon Cancer Detection, Prevention, or Treatment
- Resolve Research Needs by Making Recommendations to the NCI Leadership
- Interact with Patient Advocates, NCI Staff, and industrial representatives